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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

SEPTEMBER | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | 87-9

The number of unemployed workers in New Hampshire decreased by 380 from August to September. The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.1 percent. The 2.1 rate is the lowest State rate recorded in the nation since the modern unemployment measurement program began in 1976. In August (the latest labor force data available by State) New Hampshire posted the lowest rate in the nation for the twenty fifth consecutive month. Nationally the unemployment rates were 5.7 percent in September, 5.8 percent in August, and 6.8 percent a year ago.

The September employment picture was impacted significantly by the seasonal closing of many trade and service establishments following the labor day weekend. Trade declined by 1,850 workers and services by 1,200. Government increased by 4,000 workers as public schools and colleges reopened for the new school year. Eight labor market areas had unemployment decreases from August with the largest being 130 in the Laconia LMA. The Nashua and Claremont LMAs experienced unemployment increases of 130 and 60 respectively. The Concord and Littleton LMAs had no change in the number of unemployed from August. The rates of unemployment ranged from a low of 1.3 percent in the Keene and Laconia LMAs to a high of 4.2 percent in the Salem area (New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence Haverhill MA. PMSA). The number of unemployed and the rates for each area are as follows: Berlin LMA 550 (21. percent), Claremont LMA 600 (1.5), Concord LMA 900 (1.7), Keene LMA 530 (1.3), Laconia LMA 730 (1.3), Littleton LMA 270 (1.4), Manchester MSA 1,380 (1.6), Nashua PMSA 2,400 (2.5), Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester N.H. ME. MSA 2,370 (2.0), Salem area 2,090 (4.2), Unattached Area 640 (3.2), and the town of Pelham (part of the Lowell MA. PMSA) 220 (4.2 percent).

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 1,700 workers as manufacturing gained 700 and nonmanufacturing 1,000. Compared to the year ago level, manufacturing is up 2,650 and nonmanufacturing 18,200. Services has gained 7,600 jobs, trade 4,750, construction 2,800, and finance, insurance, and real estate 2,000.

The average weekly manufacturing wage for September was $377.60, which represented average weekly hours worked of 40.0 at an average hourly rate of $9.44, While the paper and allied products industry and the primary metals industry both recorded the highest average weekly hours worked of 46.3, the food and kindred industry recorded the highest hourly rate of $11.78. The footwear industry recorded the lowest average weekly hours worked of 33.9 as well as the lowest average hourly rate of $5.88. Overall the average hourly rate for durables was $9.53 and for nondurables it was $9.25.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural
Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Month	Year	Sept 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Month	Year	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	600,580	611,510	565,920	-10,930	34,660	86,770	88,530	80,620	-1,760	6,150	98,140	97,250	88,970	890	9,170
2. Unemployment	12,430	12,810	14,810	- 380	-2,380	1,380	1,480	1,760	-100	-380	2,400	2,270	2,610	130	-210
Percent of labor force	2.1	2.1	2.6	xxx	xxx	1.6	1.7	2.2	xxx	xxx	2.5	2.3	2.9	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	588,105	598,655	550,760	-10,550	37,345	85,390	87,050	78,860	-1,660	6,530	95,740	94,980	86,360	760	9,380
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	45	45	350	0	-305	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	517,100	515,400	496,700	1,700	20,400	85,400	85,250	83,700	150	1,700	91,700	90,500	87,550	1,200	4,150
Manufacturing	119,100	118,400	116,900	700	2,200	12,650	12,850	13,600	-200	-950	36,900	36,800	35,400	100	1,500
Durable goods	83,450	83,300	80,800	150	2,650	8,000	8,150	8,200	-150	-200	30,800	30,650	29,300	150	1,500
Lumber & wood prods.	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	200										
Furniture & fixtures	1,550	1,600	1,500	- 50	50										
Stone & clay prods.	3,450	3,500	3,250	- 50	200										
Primary metal prods.	*4,650	*4,650	*3,700	0	950										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,650	6,600	6,750	50	-100										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	25,750	25,700	24,900	50	850	4,550	4,650	4,700	-100	-150	23,500	23,500	22,300	0	1,200
Electrical prods.	24,200	24,100	23,600	100	600										
Miscellaneous prods.	2,000	1,950	1,950	50	50										
Other durables	9,200	9,200	9,350	0	-150	3,450	3,500	3,500	- 50	- 50	7,300	7,150	7,000	150	300
Nondurable goods	35,650	35,100	36,100	550	-450	4,650	4,700	5,400	-50	-750	6,100	6,150	6,100	-50	0
Food & kindred prods.	3,200	3,200	3,150	0	50										
Textile mill prods.	3,800	3,800	3,550	0	250	1,300	1,300	1,500	0	-200					
Apparel	2,050	2,050	2,400	0	-350										
Paper & allied prods.	5,500	5,300	5,450	200	50										
Print., pub. & allied	7,450	7,500	7,400	-50	50										
Leather & lea. prods.	4,250	4,300	4,400	-50	-150										
Other nondurables	9,400	8,950	9,750	450	-350	3,350	3,400	3,900	-50	-550					
Nonmanufacturing	398,000	397,000	379,800	1,000	18,200	72,750	72,400	70,100	350	2,650	54,800	53,700	52,150	1,100	2,650
Construction (inc. min.)	38,350	38,950	35,550	-600	2,800	6,300	6,300	6,050	0	250	5,500	5,600	4,850	-100	650
Trans., comm. & util.	17,750	16,850	17,350	900	400	4,950	4,950	4,850	0	100	2,250	2,100	2,200	150	50
Trade	129,450	131,300	124,700	-1,850	4,750	22,400	22,350	22,150	50	250	20,450	20,350	19,700	100	750
Fin., ins. & real estate	31,150	31,400	29,150	-250	2,000	8,750	8,700	8,050	50	700	3,700	3,800	3,250	-100	450
Service industry & other	118,100	119,300	110,500	-1,200	7,600	21,600	21,750	21,200	-150	400	16,500	16,400	16,050	100	450
Government	63,200	59,200	62,550	4,000	650	8,750	8,350	7,800	400	950	6,400	5,450	6,100	950	300
Federal	8,950	8,950	8,300	0	650	3,150	3,150	2,450	0	700	900	850	800	50	100
State	17,000	16,200	16,650	800	350	800	800	850	0	-50	250	250	200	0	50
Local	37,250	34,050	37,600	3,200	-350	4,800	4,400	4,500	400	300	5,250	4,350	5,100	900	150

Machinery And Electrical Products Combined

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark

Labor Disputes:
Primary Products
45 Sept.
45 Aug.
350 Sept

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

Area	Unemployment*						Numerical Change From Previous		Civilian Labor Force			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Sept. Number	1987 Rate	Aug. Number	1987 Rate	Sept. Number	1986 Rate	Month	Year	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Month	Year
UNITED STATES**	6,857	5.7	7,088	5.8	8,015	6.8	-231	-1,158	119,884	121,614	118,244	-1,730	1,640
NEW HAMPSHIRE	12,430	2.1	12,810	2.1	14,810	2.6	-380	-2,380	600,580	611,510	565,920	-10,930	34,660
BERLIN LMA	550	2.1	560	2.0	650	2.5	- 10	- 100	26,570	28,020	26,380	-1,450	190
CLAREMONT LMA	600	1.5	540	1.3	650	1.7	60	- 50	39,900	40,350	38,800	- 450	1,100
CONCORD LMA	900	1.7	900	1.6	920	1.8	0	- 20	54,350	55,470	51,120	-1,120	3,230
KEENE LMA	530	1.3	580	1.4	830	2.0	- 50	- 300	41,950	42,550	41,830	- 600	120
LACONIA LMA	730	1.4	860	1.5	820	1.6	-130	- 90	53,940	58,620	52,870	-4,680	1,070
LITTLETON LMA	270	1.4	270	1.4	380	2.1	0	- 110	18,920	19,700	18,200	- 780	720
MANCHESTER MSA	1,380	1.6	1,480	1.7	1,760	2.2	-100	- 380	86,770	88,530	80,620	-1,760	6,150
NASHUA PMSA	2,400	2.4	2,270	2.3	2,610	2.9	130	- 210	98,140	97,250	88,970	890	9,170
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	2,090	4.2	2,210	4.4	2,360	5.5	-120	- 270	50,050	50,390	42,550	- 340	7,500
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	2,370	1.7	2,450	1.8	3,280	2.5	- 80	- 910	135,580	135,980	131,630	- 400	3,950
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	640	3.2	680	3.4	580	3.3	- 40	60	19,930	20,170	17,820	- 240	2,110
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	220	4.1	260	4.9	260	5.5	- 40	- 40	5,340	5,350	4,750	- 10	590
County													
BELKNAP	400	1.4	480	1.6	400	1.5	- 80	0	28,070	30,420	26,970	-2,350	1,100
CARROLL	230	1.2	250	1.3	260	1.4	- 20	- 30	18,650	19,850	18,000	-1,200	650
CHESHIRE	480	1.3	540	1.4	760	2.0	- 60	- 280	37,460	38,010	37,440	- 550	20
COOS	520	2.5	530	2.4	670	3.0	- 10	- 150	20,810	21,880	22,030	-1,070	-1,220
GRAFTON	530	1.3	530	1.2	630	1.6	0	- 100	41,500	43,200	39,770	-1,700	1,730
HILLSBOROUGH	3,890	2.1	3,930	2.1	4,520	2.7	- 40	- 630	184,340	185,320	170,530	- 980	13,810
MERRIMACK	1,020	1.6	1,020	1.5	1,120	1.8	0	- 100	64,930	66,850	60,740	-1,920	4,190
ROCKINGHAM	3,720	3.0	3,880	3.1	4,310	3.8	-160	- 590	124,980	125,680	112,360	- 700	12,620
STRAFFORD	1,280	2.2	1,330	2.2	1,760	3.0	- 50	- 480	59,350	59,590	57,980	- 240	1,370
SULLIVAN	360	1.8	320	1.5	380	1.9	40	- 20	20,490	20,710	20,100	- 220	390

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.

AREA DESCRIPTIONS

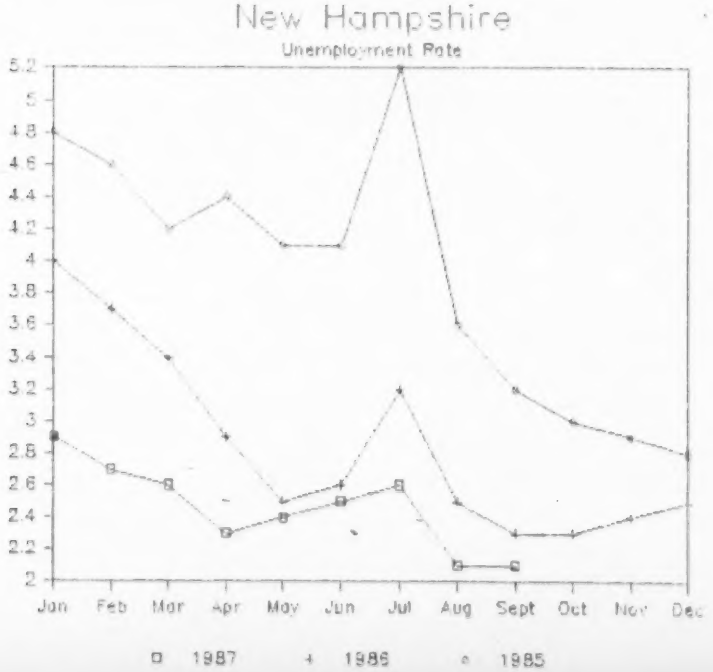
MANCHESTER MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.

NASHUA PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H. ME. MSA includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth; the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Stratham; and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1987	1986	1985	1984
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - September	339.1			
Percent change from year ago	4.4			
Year average		323.4	318.5	307.6
Percent increase each year		1.5	3.5	3.4
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - September	344.4			
Percent change from year ago	4.3			
Year average		328.4	322.2	311.1
Percent increase each year		1.9	3.6	4.3



Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester Civilian Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	135,580	135,980	131,630	- 400	3,950
Unemployment	2,370	2,450	3,280	- 80	-910
Percent of Labor Force	2.0	1.8	2.5	xxx	xxx
Employment Total	133,210	133,530	128,000	- 320	5,210
Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	350	0	- 350
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary	111,100	110,500	107,450	600	3,650
Manufacturing	19,600	19,000	20,150	300	-550
Durable Goods	12,200	12,250	12,200	- 50	0
Nondurable Goods	7,400	7,050	7,950	350	-550
Nonmanufacturing	91,500	91,200	87,300	300	4,200
Construction (inc. mining)	5,450	5,500	5,750	- 50	-300
Trans., Commun. & Utilities	3,050	3,100	2,950	- 50	100
Trade	30,650	31,250	29,150	- 600	1,500
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	6,550	6,550	5,800	0	750
Services	21,100	21,600	19,450	- 500	1,650
Government	24,700	23,200	24,200	1,500	500
Federal	10,750	10,750	10,400	0	350
State	5,050	4,400	5,000	650	50
Local	8,900	8,050	8,800	850	100

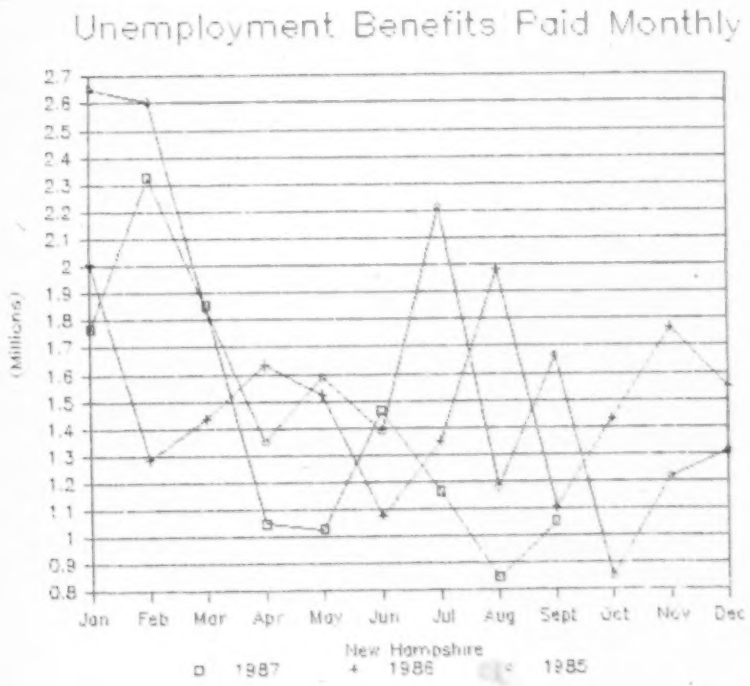
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986
Manufacturing	$366.13	$373.46	$358.43	39.2	39.9	40.5	9.34	9.36	8.85
Durable Goods	397.98	412.70	394.63	39.6	40.7	40.6	10.05	10.14	9.72
Nondurable - Goods	314.16	304.92	306.68	38.5	38.5	40.3	8.16	7.92	7.61

Sample Percent of Production Workers	Total Production Workers	Firms Reporting
45%	14,132	35

Weekly Claims Filed During September
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	1,802	6,897	7	12	8	17	11	23	12	20
Berlin	85	294	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Claremont	75	152	0	0	3	5	0	4	1	1
Concord	150	407	3	0	2	0	1	2	2	2
Conway	25	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	308	1,112	1	4	1	5	0	5	4	8
Keene	75	238	0	3	0	3	1	5	0	2
Laconia	92	364	1	2	2	0	2	0	0	1
Lebanon	35	63	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Littleton	50	89	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Manchester	327	1,058	0	2	0	0	2	2	3	1
Nashua	183	799	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Portsmouth	155	773	1	0	0	0	3	5	2	1
Salem	84	367	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Liable Interstate	158	1,112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $127.70



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$155,908,809.35

Net contributions received during month:

31,933.96

Net benefits paid during month:

1,054,121.29

Interest Received:

0

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986
All manufacturing	$377.60	$377.92	$367.33	40.0	40.9	41.6	$9.44	$9.24	$8.83
Durable goods	384.06	386.34	380.80	40.3	41.1	41.8	9.53	9.40	9.11
Lumber & wood prods.	308.95	316.78	288.08	37.0	39.4	39.9	8.35	8.04	7.22
Furniture & fixtures	327.83	333.98	282.35	42.3	42.6	39.6	7.75	7.84	7.13
Stone & clay prods.	369.46	354.14	362.48	41.7	40.8	42.1	8.86	8.68	8.61
Primary metal prods.	454.72	463.00	424.98	45.7	46.3	44.5	9.95	10.00	9.55
Fab. metal prods.	366.51	387.30	356.49	40.1	41.6	40.1	9.14	9.31	8.89
Mach. (exc. elec.)	416.66	414.07	403.09	42.3	42.6	42.7	9.85	9.72	9.44
Electrical prods.	382.85	382.00	412.15	38.4	39.3	41.8	9.97	9.72	9.86
Miscellaneous prods.	334.40	335.37	283.29	40.0	41.2	39.4	8.36	8.14	7.19
Other durables	382.96	388.54	369.64	40.1	40.6	42.1	9.55	9.57	8.78
Nondurable goods	363.53	357.54	342.38	39.3	40.4	41.4	9.25	8.85	8.27
Food & kindred prods.	478.27	458.85	399.97	40.6	39.9	43.1	11.78	11.50	9.28
Textile mill prods.	315.57	318.86	313.83	40.2	41.9	41.9	7.85	7.61	7.49
Apparel	254.26	254.78	232.18	38.7	39.5	38.0	6.57	6.45	6.11
Paper & allied prods.	536.15	516.53	466.34	46.3	48.5	47.2	11.58	10.65	9.88
Print., pub. & allied	368.81	358.91	348.38	38.1	37.9	39.1	9.68	9.47	8.91
Leather & lea. prods.	205.70	216.94	218.15	34.0	36.4	37.1	6.05	5.96	5.88
Footwear	199.33	193.10	204.79	33.9	33.7	36.7	5.88	5.73	5.58
Other nondurables	359.46	362.58	360.82	38.2	39.8	42.3	9.41	9.11	8.53

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 45%

Total Production Workers: 81,500

Firms Reporting: 292

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986
All manufacturing	$387.53	$381.36	$370.66	40.2	40.7	41.6	$9.64	$9.37	$8.91
Durable goods	398.19	390.62	387.32	39.7	39.9	40.9	10.03	9.79	9.47
Mach. & elec. prods.	401.80	401.71	387.58	39.6	40.7	41.9	10.14	9.87	9.25
Other durables	393.62	377.91	387.47	39.8	39.0	39.7	9.89	9.69	9.76
Nondurable goods	367.43	362.46	342.55	41.1	42.0	42.5	8.94	8.63	8.06
Textiles & apparel	306.12	303.23	296.61	40.6	41.2	40.3	7.54	7.36	7.36
Other nondurables	393.59	386.62	361.09	41.3	42.3	43.4	9.53	9.14	8.32

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 55%

Total Production Workers: 9,500

Firms Reporting: 38

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986
All manufacturing	$476.60	$469.61	$443.94	40.7	40.8	42.2	$11.71	$11.51	$10.52
Durable goods	481.69	479.41	457.10	41.1	41.4	42.6	11.72	11.58	10.73
Mach. & elec. prods.	516.48	508.23	491.15	40.7	40.4	41.8	12.69	12.58	11.75
Other durables	412.98	422.48	375.58	41.8	43.6	44.5	9.88	9.69	8.44
Nondurable goods	457.45	424.84	392.45	39.3	38.0	40.5	11.64	11.18	9.69

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 47%

Total Production Workers: 20,700

Firms Reporting: 55

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending September 30, 1987

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	6,603	3,222	979	474	665	269
Prof., Tech. (00-16)						
Managerial (18,19)	1,330	514	155	59	212	56
Clerical (20-24)	1,355	1,144	200	154	118	82
Sales (25-29)	369	162	69	27	37	9
Services (3)	1,027	704	192	135	55	39
Farm (4)	59	15	8	1	3	2
Processing (5)	108	37	14	8	6	2
Machine Trade (6)	416	112	34	10	35	9
Benchwork (7)	494	343	70	48	62	44
Structural (8)	925	68	147	7	74	5
Miscellaneous (9)	518	123	90	25	63	21
Unclassified	2	0	0	0	0	0

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	Sept. 1987	August 1987	July 1, 1987-Sept. 30,1987
Total applicants for employment	2,163	2,147	6,616
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,144	2,341	7,459
Job openings unfilled end of month	2,964	2,834	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	824	858	2,577